GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3455
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2015
NCERT Text Books
Arunmozhithevan Shri A.

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a chapter in an NCERT textbook on healthcare in India has become the latest issue of contention between the Indian Medical Association and the Government;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has ordered any probe into this incident; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)
(a) & (b) The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has mainly objected to the following content on page 26 in the Chapter 2, "Role of the Government in Health", of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) Social Science Textbook for Class VII, Social and Political Life-II, under sub-heading "Healthcare and equality", which was published in February, 2007 and has been in circulation since academic session of 2007-08:
"In order to earn more money, these private services encourage practices that are incorrect. At times, cheaper methods, though available, are not used. For example, it is common to find doctors prescribing unnecessary medicines, injections or saline bottles when tablets or simple medicines can suffice."
It has also objected to the content on 'The cost of a cure' on pages 22-23, which indicates the difference in the cost of treatment in private and Government hospitals.
IMA has filed a Writ Petition before the High Court of Delhi in the same matter. The matter is currently sub-judice.
(c) No, Madam.
(d) Does not arise.